In operation, when a target of interest moves into a transition region, a user of the Roberts et al. system is enabled to select an appropriate "button" region, and thus to select a second camera, i.e, a camera adjacent to the first camera presently providing the image of the target of interest. This selection results in video signals of the target of interest provided by the second camera being processed by a CPU (paragraph 0015) and provided to monitor 6 such that a continuous image of the target of interest is displayed on the monitor. That is, the Roberts et al. system enables a user to select a pair of cameras, both capturing overlapping images of a target of interest as it moves through a transition region, and to process the video feeds from each of the pair of cameras such that the captured, overlapping images are displayed on a monitor in a continuous display (paragraph 0004: "upon movement of the target to a transition region, the user control is operable to select the "button" region of an image displayed, whereby to select a second camera and to employ video signals from the second video camera to maintain target image continuity.")

Roberts et al., therefore, employ paired video streams that overlap in specific areas, and switch from one stream to another as a target of interest passes from a first area captured by a first video stream, through a transition region where both video streams include images of the target of interest, and into a second area captured by a second video stream.

Applicant notes that the embodiment of Figure 2 of Roberts et al. employs PTZ cameras 12-14 (paragraph 0018), and that the CPU of the Roberts et al. system stores data pertaining to various parameters related to the images produced by each of the PTZ cameras. Such stored data facilitates selection of the most appropriate camera to use. Roberts et al. further mention the use of logic operable to track an identified target (paragraph 0019), and the use of image processing with PTZ cameras (paragraph 0021) to determine where transition regions occur.

However, Roberts et al., unlike the presently claimed invention, do not appear to disclose production, by image processing (i.e., use of a processor) of "a smooth transitional view between at least two" of a plurality of cameras, thus providing a continuous change of ***camera angle*** between the cameras. At most, Roberts et al. appear to teach the use of pairs of cameras (fixed or PTZ) having overlapping fields of view, and selecting one of the pair to continue tracking a target of interest from the other of the pair as it transitions between the two fields of view. Roberts et al. do not appear to disclose generation of a continuous change of camera angle, as opposed to a continuous image of the target of interest. Thus, the combined teachings of the cited references could not have yielded systems as claimed in present claims 1 and 3.

With respect to claims 2 and 4, again, similar reasoning applies. The combination of Roberts et al. with Hendricks et al., would not have led one of ordinary skill to the methods of claims 2 and 4. At most, such a combination would have yielded methods in which images of a target of interest transition between two cameras, without a continuous change of camera angle.

Accordingly, the cited references do not appear to suggest to one of ordinary skill the subject matter of any of the present claims. The cited art must therefore fail as §103 teachings. Withdrawal of the rejection on this basis is respectfully urged.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is submitted that all present claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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